



Frayed Knot Theatre Co.

25th Anniversary production of

The original
Marreau
adventure
revisited

Marreau
and the
Chocolate
Policeman
by
Rob Farrow



PROGRAMME
£1

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AUDITIONS – Thursday 17th November 2016.8pm
MOJO by Jez Butterworth



Rehearsals from January 2017

Performances 17th – 20th May 2017 at the Court Theatre, Tring

For more info and to apply email: mojo@fktc.org

A Frayed Knot Theatre Company production in association with Nick Hern Books

FRAYED KNOT THEATRE COMPANY – OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS



1991	Marreau And The Chocolate Policeman	
1992	Marreau And The African Moon	
1993	Marreau And The Curse Of Cardiff	& D.F.C./Moby Dick: <i>Double Bill</i>
1994	Marreau And The Bloody Carpet	& Blithe Spirit
1995	Marreau And The Sword Of Carthage	& Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber
1996	Farndale Avenue ... Macbeth	& Marreau And The Clouds Of Death
1997	The Importance Of Being Earnest	& Knightsbridge/Never The Twain/ Pastiche: <i>Treble Bill</i>
		& Farndale Avenue ... Christmas Carol
1998	Arsenic And Old Lace	& A Murder Has Been Arranged
		& Marreau And The Chocolate Policeman
1999	How The Other Half Loves	& Trivial Pursuits
2000	Habeas Corpus	& Farndale Avenue ... They Came From Mars
2001	Requiem For Marreau	
2002	Lady Windemere's Fan	& Marreau And The Tregalleon Inheritance
2003	Saving Ardley	& Fish Out Of Water
2004	Marreau And The Terror Of Tring	& A Tomb With A View
2005	Lend Me A Tenor	
2006	The Full Monty	& Neville's Island
2007	An Inspector Calls	& See How They Run
2008	Black Comedy/Darlings, You Were Wonderful!: <i>Double Bill</i>	& Guards, Guards
2009	The History Boys	& The Titfield Thunderbolt
2010	Glegarry Glen Ross	& Marreau And The Grey Dagger
		& Damages
2011	The 39 Steps	& The Rise & Fall Of Little Voice
		& Hang On A Minute Lad's I've Got A Great Idea
2012	Talking Heads	& Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell
2013	Jerusalem	
2014	Marreau And The Killer Rabbit	& Journey's End
2015	The Ladykillers	& Dirty Dusting
2016	Oscar	& One Man Two Guvnors

MARREAU AND THE CHOCOLATE POLICEMAN

The Cast

Hemlock Marreau	The famous continental detective	Colin Bryer
Gwendolyn Smith	Secretary and Friend of Marreau	Jenny Booth
Simon Simpson	Friend of Marreau	Graham Double
Bertie	Eldest son of Lady Eustace	Dan Clucas
Edward	Younger son of Lady Eustace	Dave Reece
Isabel	Wife of Edward	Vi Malcolm
Jane	Daughter of Lady Eustace	Sue Fuchter
Major Trubolt	Nephew of Lady Eustace	Malcolm Stubbs
Angela	Wife of Major Trubolt	Regina Dobbs
Dr. Protheroe	Family Doctor	John Allan
Cummings	The Butler	Roger Emery
Mrs. Farley	The Cook	Lindsay Smith
Vincent	Valet and Groom	John Francis
Daisy	A Maid	Matty Underhill
Sgt. Farmer	Local policeman	Rob Farrow

The Crew

Director	Rob Farrow
Producer & Stage Manager	Sarah Amsden
Lighting & Sound	Chris Cooper
Set construction	Simon Ruck, John Francis, John Allan Philip Smith, Dave Reece, Colin Bryer Sarah Amsden, Rob Farrow, Matthew Minors
Props	Lindsay Smith and the cast

Thanks to John Francis & Sue Fuchter for transport
and to
Matthew Homes Ltd for their continued sponsorship

MARREAU AND THE CHOCOLATE POLICEMAN

The Play

The play takes place at the country residence of Lady Eustace,
the period is the late 1920s.

It is late in the evening after a day's pheasant shooting.

Act I Scene 1 The sitting room - nearly midnight

Act I Scene 2 The same - the next morning

Interval of c. 20 minutes

Act II Scene 1 The sitting room - early afternoon

Act II Scene 2 The same - a little later

Act II Scene 3 The same - a few minutes later

Director's Note

We always have a good time rehearsing Marreau shows and this one has been no exception, and as usual we have struggled to get a cast of fifteen all together at the same time - in fact, with less than a week to go we still haven't managed it! This is the the third time that we have aired this particular play, it being the show that started Frayed Knot off back in 1991 - see the little history at the back of the programme. Since its first performance, I have had it published in the US where it has been performed a number of times - and has also been staged in Hong Kong. Quite what any of those performances were like I have no idea, and wonder if they understood the rather quirky British nature of the play - I would like to have seen them. I am delighted that this 25th anniversary production features a number of the original cast from that first show - including the principal trio of Colin, Jenny and Graham as Marreau, Gwendolyn and Simpson - but also Vi reprising her rôle of Isabel. Also Regina is playing Angela, whom she was supposed to play in the original, but had to back out due to getting married! Oh, and then there's me, turning up again like the bad penny! I would also like to welcome several newcomers to Marreau (and to Frayed Knot) and not forgetting the other stalwarts of previous shows joining us again. If you've seen Marreau plays before (even perhaps this one) then I hope you enjoy this particular version; if this is your first Marreau - then I hope it is a pleasant surprise.

Rob Farrow, November 2016



Colin Bryer



Jenny Booth



Graham Double



Dan Clucas



Dave Reece



Vi Malcolm



Sue Fuchter



Malcolm Stubbs



Regina Dobbs



John Allan



Roger Emery



Lindsay Smith



John Francis



Matty Underhill



Rob Farrow



Sarah Amsden

Frayed Knot Theatre Company 25th Anniversary

Twenty five years ago a group of then-quite-youthful members of Phoenix Theatre Company, based in Tring, decided that they wanted to perform some more unusual plays rather than the "standards" that were the usual output of that company. One of this group was Rob Farrow who had written a number of sketches for the Festival Fringe. One such sketch, a spoof or "homage" on the detective genre, became far too long for a sketch and turned into a full length (albeit quite short) play and "Marreau" first saw the light of day.

Pendley Theatre (now known as "The Court Theatre") at the time was "dark" that is to say it was closed and no performances were taking place there. So, with Phoenix's backing, the intrepid group performed the play in four different village halls the first being on a snowy 24th April 1991 at the old (now demolished and rebuilt) Marsworth Village Hall. This first play "*Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman*" went down very well with the audiences that saw it, and the cast had really enjoyed both rehearsing and performing it, so it was suggested that a sequel would be a good idea. The little group then had the dilemma that they didn't want to hi-jack Phoenix's agenda for their own ends and so they decided it would be a good idea to set up their own small theatre company. The first thing to decide for this nascent company was a name several were mooted and because a number of members were interested in performing "coarse acting" plays the name "Coarse Knot" was suggested but remembering the old joke about a disheveled piece of string, this was modified slightly and so in November 1991 **Frayed Knot Theatre Company** was born. The first play performed under the "Frayed Knot" banner was the sequel "*Marreau and the African Moon*" in April 1992, and a year later followed the third in the sequence "*Curse of Cardiff*". The company was now well into its stride, and with the re-opening of Pendley Theatre as The Court Theatre, Frayed Knot performed "*Curse of Cardiff*" there for one night as one of the first shows in the newly refurbished theatre and all the company's subsequent shows have had a home there. 1993 saw the company perform two productions in a year for the first time with the double-bill of the company's first "coarse acting" play "*Moby Dick*" alongside another of Rob's plays, the tragedy "*D.F.C.*" and from 1996 to 1998 the company was probably at its most active with three productions in each of those years as they are also doing this year. Frayed Knot has gone from strength to strength, and its reputation has grown steadily. In recent years the company has staged some remarkable, challenging and powerful productions particularly of note are *The Full Monty*, *The History Boys*, *The 39 Steps*, *Jerusalem*, *Journey's End* and most recently *One Man Two Guvnors*. Some of these productions were the first Amateur productions of these shows anywhere, and the company has gained a reputation for successfully staging ground-breaking and difficult shows.

The company is delighted that they have managed to attract young members to the society for many of these exciting shows, while retaining many of its original and early members and that they have not lost contact with their original ethos of producing new or obscure plays as well as the sequence of eleven Marreau plays, the company recently had a great success with the little-known *Dirty Dusting* which proved highly popular.

And so, to celebrate Frayed Knot's "silver anniversary" they are delighted to revisit the play that started it all off all those years ago, with a revival of the very first Marreau play **Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman**.

On this 25th anniversary we would also like to remember our members who have sadly passed away; Peter Cherry, June Fortune, Jan Jones and Maxine Reece. Peter and June were the leads in *D.F.C.*, and were our first Life Members. Peter, Jan and Maxine were in many shows with Frayed Knot, including a number of the Marreau plays over the years.

They are all sadly missed by their friends in the society.



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